



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

A P R I L

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DPL BOARD CHANGES

Commissioner Deron Johnson submitted his formal resignation to the DPL board on November 2nd, 2015. Mary Adams submitted her formal resignation to the DPL board on November 22nd, 2015. State statute indicates a resignation of a commissioner shall be filled by the chair. The appointment is for the remainder of the unexpired term subject to approval by a majority vote of the board.

Fortunately, Dave Anstett and Dan O'Connell have agreed to serve and were approved unanimously by the board at the February 26th, 2016 meeting. Dave will fill Deron's term through July 31, 2016 and Dan, Mary's term through July 31, 2018.

Sincere thanks to Mary and Deron for their dedicated service to the DPL.

LAKE LEVEL

The summer of 2015 brought a great deal of discussion around the lower than normal lake levels. Several meetings were held with DNR officials and consultations were held at our meetings with engineers familiar with our lake. It was universally agreed that no changes had been made to the structure at the outlet. The other alternative is that it was inflow to the lake that was decreased. While Illinois and surrounding areas to Powers Lake seemed to have sufficient rain, we still seemed lower than normal for a good part of the summer months. The rainstorms simply missed Powers Lake. Southeastern Wisconsin was 3" to 5" below normal rainfall during the summer. Lake levels were actually lower in 2013 if you look at the graph enclosed. Further examination of the wetlands feeding our lake will continue. In the end, the general consensus was simply that Mother Nature is unpredictable and variations from normal will occur over the years. As you can see by the

graph enclosed, the lake had already recovered in September 2015 and as of March 1st, 2016 the reading at our staff gauge by the outlet was 0.90 feet. With any luck, we will start the spring at about the same level.

ELECTRONIC MEASURING DEVICE

One of our initiatives for 2016 will be to install an Electronic Measuring Device so we can more efficiently and accurately monitor the lake level. Our goal is to install a device this year and tie it to our website so we can continue to create an accurate historical perspective.

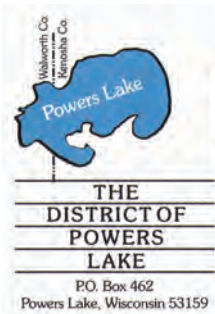
You may recall the drought of 2012 which is what prompted the District to install the staff gauge by the outlet on the west side of the lake and to start tracking this data.

The above graph is the result of our volunteers' weekly efforts to manually record the lake level. By installing an electronic measuring device, we will be more accurate and efficient in this effort. We can also share the data with other entities like USGS who will also find value in the data.

CHAPTER 20

You may be aware that the Town of Randall is in the process of updating and simplifying what is commonly referred to as Chapter 20 which is the Ordinance that governs the rules of the lake. The intent of this undertaking is to simplify and bring the ordinance in alignment with the more current state statutes. The Village of Bloomfield has been working with Town of Randall to make sure both municipalities have the same language and ensure consistency. The ordinance is now in final review with the DNR.

The only expected significant change will be to provide boaters pulling a skier/tube the option to now cut across and not enter Jefferson



Elected Commissioners:
Neal Kuhn, Chair
Brooke Jensen, Treas.
Jim Michels
Dan O'Connell
Dave Anstett

Appointed Commissioners:
Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
Mark Halvey, Randall Twp.

Bay based on "judgment" if the traffic in the bay poses a safety threat. The current Ordinance requires every boater pulling a skier/tube to enter the bay and follow the ski pattern. This potential change will allow what is often a common practice to no longer be a violation. It is a welcome common sense approach to what was often not only a safety concern but an issue of much confusion and debate. Please keep in mind the Ordinance has not yet passed. As of today, it is still a violation, so please keep this in mind when on the water. We will let you know when the changes are official. Newly adjusted measurement for the slow no wake regulations were needed since installation of the gauges at the outlet in 2013.

Slow No Wake

(i). No watercraft shall be operated at a speed greater than "slow-no-wake" at any time:

a. On Jefferson Bay when the water level of Powers Lake reaches the water-gauge elevation level of 1.3 feet or higher, as determined and calculated in accordance with subparagraph (ii)(a), below;

b. On Powers Lake when the water level on Powers Lake reaches the water-gauge elevation level of 1.5 feet or higher, as determined and calculated in accordance with subparagraph (ii)(a), below.

(4) Direction of Travel

No operator of a boat or watercraft and no person shall engage in water skiing, aquaplaning, or similar sport or activity outside of the traffic lane as defined in this Ordinance, and said persons must operate in a counterclockwise pattern in the traffic lane, as well as conform to all sections of this Ordinance. A counterclockwise direction is determined by viewing the direction of the boat or watercraft as that direction is viewed from a bird's-eye view of the entire lake. The operator of a boat may, as an alternative and with reasonable caution and care, cut across the mouth of Jefferson Bay on Powers Lake.

JEFFERSON ISLAND CHANNEL (JIC)

The DPL was approached by several volunteers interested in opening up the mouth of the channel and asked the DPL for support. The DPL engaged Hey & Associates to facilitate and obtain a permit from the DNR. The plan included widening and deepening the North opening to the JIC. We applaud the volunteers who sacrificed a full weekend in January to make it happen!

A sincere Thank You to:

- Mr. Dan O'Connell for his leadership in spearheading the effort
- Mr Don Silich for allowing us access via his property
- Dr. Mike Partridge for his efforts and use of his equipment and
- Mr. Matt Danaher for his time and effort

ICE ON/ICE OFF DATES

January 11, 2016 was our ice on date and this approximately 11 inch ice cover went off on March 9th, 2016.

REMINDER

Please remember to use phosphorous free lawn fertilizer. Most soils in Wisconsin naturally provide all the phosphorus your established lawn needs. Much of the phosphorus (phosphate) you apply actually runs off the lawn before penetrating the soil. Runoff into our lake could contribute to algae bloom and undesirable aquatic plants.

Check the second number on the package formula. 15-0-10, for example, means zero phosphate. The first number is the nitrogen content, the middle number is the phosphorus content and the last number is the potassium content. **Make sure the middle number on the bag is 0 indicating it is phosphorus free.** If you use a lawn service, ask your applicator service not to use phosphorus on your lawn. If they are unwilling to do this, contact another provider or consider applying the no-phosphorus fertilizer yourself.

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING



Our next meeting will be held Friday, April 15th, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, Wisconsin.

DISTRICT OF POWERS LAKE MISSION STATEMENT

Within the scope of the powers vested in it under Chapter 33 and in furtherance of the Public Trust Doctrine of Wisconsin, the mission of the District of Powers Lake is:

To support, protect, preserve and enhance the native ecosystem of the watershed, shoreline, and waters of Powers Lake as a natural resource for generations to come;

To be responsive to the interests and concerns of the district residents and the public; and

To proactively advocate when faced with potential damage to Powers Lake's environmental values, wildlife, natural beauty, peacefulness, safety and/or recreational value.